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WE CONSERVE, SUSTAIN AND  
CONNECT NATURAL AREAS, LANDS  
AND WATERS THAT MAKE THE  
PLACES WE LIVE SPECIAL

Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy  
is a private non-profit organization.  
All contributions are tax deductible as  
provided by law.

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sen. Darwin Booher, Rep. Nancy Jenkins, Members of the  
Michigan House and Senate Joint Capital Outlay Committee

**From:** Chris Bunch, Executive Director

**Date:** February 23, 2016

**Re:** HB 5377 MNRTF Appropriation

**Cc:** Steve DeBrabander, MNRTF

On behalf of our members and constituents in Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Genesee, and St. Clair Counties, I would like to urge you to move forward with passage of HB 5377 as quickly as possible so that projects that have been approved for funding can proceed. Several of the projects included in the package are those of partner organizations here in the region. Examples include projects for access to Lake St. Clair by both the City of New Baltimore and MDNR; additions to parks for St. Clair County Parks; and trail acquisition for the Iron Belle Trail by Genesee County Parks, among others.

The MNRTF has been a tremendous benefit to Michigan and to this region, providing critical funding for conservation of natural resources and for access to and improvements for natural resource-based recreation. All of these purposes are key components in supporting prosperity, quality of life, and economic progress here in southeastern Michigan, where the majority of the State's population and economic engines reside. They are all the more important as the renaissance of Detroit and the Metro region continues to build. High-quality environmental conditions, natural surroundings, and abundant recreational opportunities are all key factors in attracting and retaining people and businesses that foster prosperity and economic success.

Thank you for considering these comments. If you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing the Governor sign the bill and to seeing the projects move forward.

